

REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment, submitted in reply to the Office Action dated September 20, 2006, and the Advisory Action dated February 7, 2007 is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, 12, 17, 21-31, 33, 35, 38 and 39 have been canceled. Claims 3-6, 8-10, 13-16, 18-20, 32, 34, 36 and 37 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has indicated that claims 3-6, 8-10, 13-16, 18-20, 32, 34, 36 and 37 would be deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten claims 3-6, 8-10, 13-16, 18-20, 32, 34, 36 and 37 in independent form. Consequently, claims 3-6, 8-10, 13-16, 18-20, 32, 34, 36 and 37 should now be deemed allowable.

Applicant has added claims 40 and 41. Claims 40 and 41 contain subject matter similar to claims 7 and 17 previously submitted in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on June 29, 2006 and were previously entered by the Examiner.

An objection to the specification remains pending in this Application. Specifically, the Amendment filed October 4, 2005 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because the Examiner asserts it introduces new matter into the disclosure. The Examiner asserts that the newly added material on pages 2-3 of the amendments to the specification is not supported by the *original* disclosure.

Claim 7 (now claim 40) as originally filed recites “wherein each stationary grid to be used is subjected to said reducing step.”

Applicant submits that the specification was merely amended to more literally describe the subject matter of claims 7 and 17 (now claims 40 and 41) as *originally* filed. Therefore, the subject matter of the disclosure (including the claims) supports the specification modification.

Further, if an applicant amends or attempts to amend the abstract, specification or drawings of an application, an issue of new matter will arise if the content of the amendment is not described in the application as filed. Stated another way, information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter. MPEP 2163.06. As previously submitted, the subject matter added to the specification was merely added to more literally describe the subject matter of claims 7 and 17 (now claims 40 and 41) which is supported in the claims as originally filed, as discussed below.

In addition, Applicant submits a description of the claimed subject matter can also be found in Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2000-011174 and 2000-395577, which were incorporated by reference, as indicated on page 46 of the specification as originally filed. A verified English translation of page 7, lines 7-26 of JP Application No. 2000-011174 and a verified English translation of page 8, lines 8-27 of JP Application No. 2000-395577 are provided herewith. Therefore, Applicant submits the amendments to the specification and claims 40 and 41 are supported in the specification as originally filed.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/765,621

Attorney Docket No. Q61229

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Ruthleen E. Uy/

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER\

Ruthleen E. Uy
Registration No. 51,361

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